THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He can lay it. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would have assumed that it is of sufficient importance and interest to the hon. Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no objection. If you want to lay it, you lay it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will read it very quickly...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश यादव : ले कर दीजिए । ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : ले कर दीजिए । सभा-पटल पर रख दीजिए ।

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Madam, he can lay it on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want to lay it on the Table of the House, I ask Mr. Jethmalani also to lay his statement on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-814

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Madam, I lay a suo motu statement on the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 on the Table of the House because the Members do not seem to have any interest in my reading it out...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD (Jammu and Kashmir): We have interest in the discussion, but not in your reading out the statement...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Madam Deputy Chairperson, we have a lot of interest in seeking clarifications. It may be fixed for tomorrow to seek clarifications on the statement...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have got five names with me on the statement...*(Interruptions)*...

6.00 P.M

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: If you are interested in answering the clarifications, yes; we are ready to sit...*(Interruptions)*...Mere reading out the statement has no meaning...*(Interruptions)*...Madam, it is being said that the Opposition has no interest...*(Interruptions)*...We have interest...*(Interruptions)*...If you are ready to sit for two hours, yes; we are ready...*(Interruptions)*...Otherwise, it does not make any sense...*(Interruptions)*...Why to read it?...*(Interruptions)*...We are co-operating because you are not going to have any discussion now...(Interruptions)...If you are ready for clarifications, yes; we are also ready...*(Interruptions)*...Let us sit for two hours...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): We were only accommodating the Minister of External Affairs as he has to go for some meeting with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia...*(Interruptions)*...This is not a fair statement...*(Interruptions)*...Let the Foreign Minister not go for his meeting, we will seek clarifications...*(Interruptions)*...I have given my name...*(Interruptions)*...Let him stay here...*(Interruptions)*...How can Mr. Venkaiah Naidu say that?...(Interruptions)...What does he mean by that?...*(Interruptions)*...We will sit here and seek our clarifications ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him stay ...*(Interruptions)*...We will not accommodate...*(Interruptions)*...Let the Foreign Minister stay here...*(Interruptions)*...How can the ruling party say like that?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I have a point of order...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: What is this? Do they only have a monopoly of patriotism or what?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I am on a point of order. My point of order is this. When the Parliament is in Session, as between Parliament and any Foreign Minister, Parliament has an absolute priority. Any Foreign Minister in this world can be told, "My dear Foreign Minister, I am busy in Parliament. So, let us discuss later." But not the other way round...*(Interruptions)*..."My dear Parliament, I am busy with the Foreign Minister. Therefore, we will postpone."...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I will seek my clarifications... *(Interruptions)*...Let him be here... *(Interruptions)*... How dare is he to cast aspersions on us?... *(Interruptions)*...How can he cast aspersions on us?... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is an unexceptional statement... *(Interruptions)*...Parliament is supreme... *(Interruptions)*...It is no one's point that the Parliament is not supreme. The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs from Saudi Arabia has come. He is here only for today. The time that was fixed earlier for a meeting with him was 4.30 pm. Considering that at 4.30 I would have to make the statement, it was shifted to 5.00 pm. Thereafter, to 5.30 pm; thereafter, to 6 o' clock. Madam, four times, the time for the meeting with the visiting Foreign Minister has already been changed... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: We were ready to accommodate you... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The comments came from the ruling party... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I cannot hear everyone at one time... *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: We were ready to accommodate our Foreign Minister and the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia... *(Interruptions)*...But Mr. Naidu should not cast aspersions on the entire Opposition saying that we are not interested in the hijacking issue... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There are no aspersions... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: What does this behaviour mean?... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): They are taking us for granted... *(Interruptions)*... Is this the way they want to run the House?... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL(Bihar) : We take exception only to the statement made by Mr. Naidu and the Foreign Minister that we are not interested in hearing the statement. That is not fair...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU(West Bengal): What does it mean? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It seems as if the Foreign Minister is very keen to stay on, but we are not keen to carry on with the discussion...*(Interruptions)*...We do not have to score point when we are co-operating with each other...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I recognise that they are very interested...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी : पार्लियामेंटरी एटीकेट्स क्या होते हैं, यह थोड़ा समझाइए उन को ।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Because they are very interested, may I suggest...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : You should allow him to speak...*(Interruptions)*...Are you teaching me?...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Madam, he is teaching me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, when the Leader of the House is standing ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Madam, he took my name when the Leader of the House was on his legs. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is a senior Member. He wants to teach me ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Madam, may I suggest ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please have some order in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : I am prepared to learn from him. I have learnt a lot of things from him. But when he is saying that Parliament is not interested, what signal does it give? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Madam, that is now behind us. We recognise the great interest. May I suggest that now that this statement has been placed on the Table of the House, instead of tomorrow, which as the hon. Members know, is the Budget day, the House can fix any other day for a discussion on this, and, on that day, I will read out the whole statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The main thing, as I said, I knew that you have an appointment which has been cancelled again and again. But to be very honest, what I gathered, is that the statement is about 8-9 pages, and it would have taken a lot of time to read and you would neither be able to make it to the meeting, nor we will be able to have a discussion because I already have the names of 5 hon. Members who want to speak on this. I am sure another 5-10 names would be coming and you would have been delayed. So, we have to find a via media. I am sure, the Members were keen to discuss this; otherwise they won't have given their names. Reading 8 pages would take at least 10 minutes. Now, that thing is over.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : So, Madam, what is the decision?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The decision is that it is laid on the Table of the House because tomorrow is the Budget day, and tomorrow, we also have to conclude this discussion which began today. So, we will have this discusison on hijacking of the IC-814 day-after-tomorrow or any other day which is suitable. ...*(Interruptions)*...

ONE HON. MEMBER : Madam, day-after-tomorrow - at what time?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would like to put it for day-after-tomorrow. Let us see how the business of the House is. But if I categorically give my ruling that it would be day-after-tomorrow, and something spills over from tomorrow, then my ruling will become useless; I do not want my ruling to become useless. So, I give a flexible ruling, if time permits.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Madam, do I have the indulgence of the House?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, very much.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Likewise, I want to place my statement on the Table of the House; and you can fix any time to discuss it, but, tomorrow, I will be able to tell you that everything is over.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : आप स्टेटमेंट पढ़िए ।

श्री अहमद पटेल : आप तो स्टेटमेंट पढ़िए ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If he reads it, then I will have to ask for clarifications.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Madam, nobody is in a mood to listen, so let me lay it on the Table of the House.

एक माननीय सदस्य : हो गया, हो गया ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is happening.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Madam, we can discuss it tomorrow.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has not even laid it and you are saying हो गया, ऐसे कैसे हो गया ?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Madam, I lay it on the Table of the House and you can fix any time for any discussion they want.

Lawyers' Strike

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Madam, I lay on the Table of the House a copy of the statement regarding lawyers' strike and incident that occurred in the vicinity of Parliament on the 24th February, 2000.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Copies of the second statement should be distributed. Now, the second statement is also being circulated and we will find time to have a discussion on this also.